

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing adjustment shafts (1; 2) comprising a metallic shaft and a noise-abating, non-metallic external cladding (1.3; 2.3) situated between the cladding-free shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1), where, starting with a metallic shaft strand (3) continuously fitted with the said external cladding, ~~this said~~ cladding is removed in the zone (a; b) of the shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) by at least one externally applicable brush (4 or 5).
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, where the external cladding (1.3; 2.3) is removed along the zone (a: b) of axially continuous shaft ends (1.2; 2.1) of two consecutive adjustment shafts (1; 2) and thereupon the shaft strand (3) ~~shall be~~ is severed in the ~~a~~ transition region of the shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1).
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~and/or 2,~~ ~~where~~ wherein at least one brush (4 or 5), in particular in the form of a motor-driven rotary brush, is approached radially.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in claim 3,

~~where~~wherein at least one externally and preferably radially approachable brush (4 or 5) is pivoted tangentially about the metallic shaft strand (3) in the sense of a progressive peripheral removal of the external cladding (1.3; 2.3) from said strand.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~The method as claimed in ~~at least one of claims~~claim 1, through 4, wherewherein the brush (4 or 5) is approached in a manner that the radial length of its bristles (4.1 or 5.1) operationally extends maximally as far as the peripheral surface of the bared shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~The method as claimed ~~n at least one of claims 1 through 5, where~~in claim 1, wherein the shaft strand (3) is fitted in the region of the bared shaft-ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) with a geometrically interlocking torque transmitting connector of which ~~the an~~an outer contour deviates from the circular form and in particular is square.

7. (Currently Amended) Equipment with which to manufacture adjustment shafts (1; 2) comprising a metallic shaft and a noise-abating non-metallic external cladding (1.3; 2.3) wherein between the shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) the shaft is bared of said cladding, at least one rotary brush (4 or 5) being provided which can be applied, in particular radially, to a metallic shaft strand (3) continuously fitted with the external cladding (1.3; 2.3) and which can be pivoted about said strand when being moved toward it in a manner that ~~the said~~ cladding, having at least one rotary brush (4 or 5) which can be approached in the region of the free shaft ends (1.1; 1.2; 2.1) by the rotary brush (4 or 5).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~The equipment as claimed in claim 7, ~~where~~wherein at least two rotating brushes (4 or 5) are preferably configured at the periphery of the shaft strand (3) in a mutually opposite manner and are radially approachable.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~The equipment as claimed in claim 7, ~~and/or claim 8, where~~wherein the rotating brushes (4 or 5) are received in a support, in particular a brush head (6) configured to be rotatable about and concentric with the shaft strand (3).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~The equipment as claimed in claim 9, ~~where the~~wherein shafts (4.2; 5.2) of the rotating brushes (4 or 5) are each parallel to and radially offset from ~~the~~an axis (6.1) of the brush head (6) and are affixed in ~~this~~the brush head.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~The equipment as claimed in claim 9, ~~and/or 10, where~~wherein the brush head (6) is axially displaceable relative to the shaft strand (3).

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one brush (4 or 5), in particular in the form of a motor-driven rotary brush, is approached radially.

13. (New) The equipment as claimed in claim 8, wherein the rotating brushes (4

or 5) are received in a support, in particular a brush head (6) configured to be rotatable about and concentric with the shaft strand (3).

14. (New) The equipment as claimed in claim 10, wherein the brush head (6) is axially displaceable relative to the shaft strand (3).

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